

ERPINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1939.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health is required by an Order of the Ministry of Health, which outlines the scope, intent and the use of the Report. On the instruction of the Minister this report is condensed on account of war conditions.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Population (Census 1931) 17,000.

Number of inhabited houses according to rate books 5,152.

Number of Families or separate occupiers - Census 1931 - 4,440.

Rateable Value £67,067

Sum represented by a 1d. rate £274.

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	<u>BIRTHS.</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Legitimate	122	97	219
Illegitimate	6	6	12
Total	128	103	231

Birth Rate (1937)	13.66	per 1,000 population,
(1938)	13.28	" " "
(1939)	13.58	" " "
England & Wales. (1939)	15.00	" " "

	<u>DEATHS.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	
	122	128	250

Death Rate (1937)	12.96	per 1,000 population.
(1938)	11.6	" " "
(1939)	10.39	" " "
England & Wales. (1939)	12.1	" " "

There were 41 deaths attributable to Cancer, 18 being males and 23 females.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of diseases and accidents in pregnancy and childbirth:-

Sepsis Nil.
Other Causes 1.

Deaths on infants under 1 year per 1,000 births.

(1937)	29.53	
(1938)	29.9	
(1939)	25.9.	
England & Wales (1939)	50.	Stillbirths 7.

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	<u>Legitimate</u> 4	<u>Illegitimate</u> 2	<u>Total Deaths under 1 year</u> 6
Deaths from Measles. (All ages)		Nil.	
Deaths from Whooping Cough "		Nil.	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)		Nil.	

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

1. Public Health Officers to the Local Authority.
Dr.D.B.C. Lawson, M.B.Ch.B. is Medical Officer of Health (part time)
Mr.Gordon L. Evatt, M.Inst.,H.E.,F.F.A.S., is whole time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

2. Nursing in the Home.
In cases of Infectious Disease which cannot conveniently be removed to Hospital, a Nurse is provided by the Council on occasion.

3. Midwives.
Approximately 10 midwives practice in the area.
No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Council.

4. Hospitals.
The following hospitals are available for the inhabitants of the area:-

North East Norfolk Joint Isolation Hospital - 16 beds.
Cromer and District Hospital.
Norfolk & Norwich General Hospital.
Jenny Lind Hospital for Children.
North Walsham Cottage Hospital.

5. Ambulance Facilities.
The Division of the St.John Ambulance Brigade in Cromer possesses an excellent ambulance, which is available throughout the District for non-infectious cases and accidents. This also applies to Holt and District.

Infectious cases are removed to Hospital by a special motor car, which is disinfected immediately after use.

Schools.
The sanitary condition and water supply of the Elementary Schools in the District is satisfactory.

Infectious Diseases in Schools.
The School Medical Officer is notified by Teachers of all children absent from school on account of illness. Duplicates of such notifications are invariably sent to the Medical Officer of Health. Thus a child suffering from Diphtheria would be notified to the Medical Officer of Health by a Doctor and by the Head Teacher, who would also notify the Medical Officer of Health of other children absent on account of sore throats and if they had seen their Doctor.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.
The milk produced throughout the District is of good quality.
All dairies and cowsheds have been regularly inspected during the year, and several improvements carried out.
Regular sampling under the Milk Special Designations Orders has been carried out.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.
The prevalence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the year was appreciably below the average.

There were 26 cases of Scarlet Fever.
5 cases of Diphtheria.
1 case of Enteric Fever.

4 cases of Fuerperal Pyrexia
6 cases of Pneumonia
4 cases of Erysipelas.

notified during the year.

The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital has proved sufficient.

54 cases were admitted during the year, 30 cases from the Erpingham District, 7 cases from the North Walsham District, 16 cases from Sheringham and 1 from Cromer.

Evacuation.

During the year the District as a whole was used as a reception area, and at one time as many as 5,220 mothers, children helpers etc., were received into the area. As many of these were in a verminous condition it was found necessary to open the old Cromer Isolation Hospital for the treatment of Scabies and Impetigo.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1939.

Age periods	New cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	1	-	-
5 - 10	-	1	-	-
10 - 15	-	1	-	-
15 - 20	-	1	-	1
20 - 25	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	3	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	1	-	1	-
65 - 70	1	-	-	-
Totals.	5 2	1 4	1 -	- 1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, during the year.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Complaints received	97
Numbers detected without complaint	28
Nuisances abated	102
Notices served	10
Summonses taken out	-
Convictions	-
Cottages inspected under the Housing Acts	856
Slaughterhouse inspections	204
Bakehouse inspections	15
Workshops inspections	27
Filthy Houses cleansed	10
Houses Disinfected	45
Overcrowding abated	6
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water	18
Wells closed	-
Wells cleansed or repaired	11
Houses connected with the sewer	10
Houses connected with the water mains	14
Improvement to Sanitary Conveniences	10
Samples of water taken for analysis	8

Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Prosecutions.</u>
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	10	2	-
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	12	-	-
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	18	-	-

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number found.</u>	<u>Defects remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness	2	2

(Signed) D.B.C. LAWSON, M.B.,Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1940.

